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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/626,040	07/27/2000	Tadayoshi Nakanishi	30804.800US01	9557

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BRULL PICCIONELLI SARNO BRAUN & VRADENBURGH
1925 Century Park East Suite 2350
Los Angeles, CA 90067

EXAMINER

GHATT, DAVE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/626,040

Applicant(s)

NAKANISHI, TADAYOSHI

Examiner

Dave A Ghatt

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9,15,17,21,22 and 24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,10,11,19,20,23,25 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8,12-14,16 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 July 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 12 line 6, the applicant includes two commas after the recitation of "platform".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 10, 11, 23, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kruchko (US pat # 5,389,476). With respect to claim 10 and 23, Kruchko teaches a method for printing an image on oversized print media. As outlined in column 5 lines 13-23, Kruchko teaches the steps of assembling a single print substrate, wherein the single print substrate comprises a plurality of smaller print substrate segments. Column 3 line 44 to column 4 lines 31 teach the scanning of the image using scanner 26 and storing the image on a storage medium, computer 22. Column 4 lines 1-8 teach receiving an image from a computer 22 using an image scanner 26, and editing and adjusting of the print parameters for the image. Column 5 lines 1-12 teach the printing of the image onto a preassembled single print substrate. With respect to the requirement for delivering the printed substrate to the client, this is an inherent step in the

Art Unit: 2854

method of Kruchko. With respect to the requirement for print substrate segments, the applicant should note that insofar as this requirement is broadly recited, any print substrate could be divided into segments.

With respect to claims 11 and 26, as outlined in column 5 lines 17-20, the print substrate of Kruchko comprises coupling a smaller laminated segments with a backing segment, using a coupling adhesive.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fulkerson et al. (US 6,059,391). With respect to claim 1, Fulkerson et al. teaches a system for printing on oversized print media. Figures 1 and 2 of Fulkerson et al. teach a transportation system having a track 22, a printing station 12 comprising a movable print head. With respect to the requirement for an unloading and delivery station, the apparatus illustrated in Figure 1 must inherently include these stations downstream of the printing station 12, in order for the apparatus to be operable. Fulkerson et al. further teaches a platform 14 sized to receive an oversized print substrate, the print substrate being sized to correspond to a desired product size. As illustrated in Figure 1, the platform resides on the track and moves along the track in a translational motion. The printing station 12 and the unloading station and delivery station, must be coupled together, in some manner, by the track 22. As outlined in column 4 lines 43-49, the print head is configured to scan across the print substrate in a direction perpendicular to the translational motion of the print substrate.

With respect to claim 2, the applicant should note that insofar as this requirement is broadly recited, any print substrate could be divided into segments.

With respect to claim 3, Figure 1 of Fulkerson et al. illustrates the printing station 12 that includes a stationary platform (not numbered) upon which the print head is mounted. With respect to the requirement for loading station, in order for the apparatus of Fulkerson et al. to be operable, the apparatus must inherently include a loading station upstream of the printing station 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fulkerson et al. (US 6,059,391) in view of Zelko (US 5,887,519). With respect to claims 4 and 5, Fulkerson et al. teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the above rejection of claims 1- 3, except for a clamping device and an expandable member, wherein the clamping device is coupled to the expandable member and configured to be releasably coupled to the print substrate. Zelko teaches clamp 62 being pressed into engagement with rail 44 so as to thereby clamp the reinforcement rail between the clamp 62 and support bar 54, thus forming parts of a clamping device for clamping engagement with printing screen 28, which encompasses platform 12 extending through six printing stations 26. Zelko also teaches the position of screen 28 can be manually adjusted by adjustment support bar 54 and its alignment pin 56. Elements 54 and 56 are therefore the claimed "expandable member." It would be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to provide the clamping device of Zelko, in the apparatus of Fulkerson et al., in order to

Art Unit: 2854

ensure that each platform is accurately located in positions during each printing operation for accurate printing at successive printing stations as taught by Zelko in column 4 lines 60-67 and column 5 lines 5-10.

With respect to claim 5, the above describe apparatus of Zelko meets the definition of a “clamping device being releasably coupled to the print substrate” because as broadly recited, the clamping device is couple to print substrates that are positioned on the platform 12.

With respect to claim 6, the primary reference Fulkerson et al. teaches in a Figure 1, a rectangular member under the platform 14 which contacts the platform during operation and linearly translates the platform along the track. Fulkerson et al. also teaches a motor 34.

7. Claims 19 and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kruchko (US 5,389,476) in view of Fulkerson et al. (US 6,059,391). As outlined in the above rejections to claims 10 and 11, Kruchko teaches all that is claimed, except for a transportation system, a printing station, and an unloading and delivery station and a platform. Figures 1 and 2 of Fulkerson et al. teach a transportation system having a track 22, a printing station 12 comprising a movable print head. With respect to the requirement for an unloading and delivery station, the apparatus illustrated in Figure 1 must inherently include these stations downstream of the printing station 12, in order for the apparatus to be operable. Fulkerson et al. further teaches a platform 14. It would be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to modify Kruchko to include the printing system of Fulkerson et al., in order to provide the ability to print on substrates of different sizes, as taught by Fulkerson et al. in column 2 lines 65-67.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 9, 15, 17, 21, 22, and 24 are allowed.

Claim 21 is allowed because the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the total combination claimed, including a platform comprising a hollow frame, a printing station, and a smoothing device, comprising a horizontal bed and an elevating means, wherein the horizontal bed is sized to pass through the hollow frame when the horizontal bed is elevated.

9. Claims 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18 are objected to for minor informalities, but would be allowed if written to overcome the objection, as outlined in paragraph of the present office action.

Claim 12 is indicated allowable because the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the total combination claimed, including a platform, wherein the platform comprises a hollow frame, wherein the horizontal bed is sized to pass through the hollow frame when the horizontal bed is elevated.

10. Claims 7, 8, and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 7 is indicated allowable because the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the total combination claimed, including a platform, wherein the platform further comprises a hollow frame, wherein the horizontal bed is sized to pass through the hollow frame when the horizontal bed is elevated.

Claim 25 is indicated allowable because the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the total combination claimed, including a horizontal bed and an elevating means, wherein the smoothing device is positioned adjacent the print station such that the substrate passes over the horizontal bed.


Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave A Ghatt whose telephone number is (703) 308-2417. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-3431.

DAG
October 24, 2003


ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800